

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 5-7 have been canceled and claims 8-10 have been newly added. Claims 2-4 have been amended to depend from claim 8 and for clarity. Support for the newly claimed subject matter is located in Fig. 6 and the specification discussion thereof at page 19, line 5 to page 23, line 23.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-7 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US 5,768,264). Claim 2 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Anderson. Claim 4 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Watanabe et al. (US 6,144,650). To the extent these rejections are deemed applicable to the amended claims, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

New claim 8 recites:

A TDMA-TDD based transmission/reception apparatus mounted in a mobile station and transmitting and receiving signals by providing a downlink traffic slot and an uplink traffic slot alternately in a traffic frame, the transmission/ reception apparatus comprising:

a detector that receives signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations in a traffic frame during a handover, and, based on these signals, detects propagation conditions with the plurality of base stations respectively;

a selector that, based on detection results of the propagation conditions, selects a base station corresponding to an optimal propagation condition from among the plurality of base stations; and

a transmitter that assigns an uplink slot only to the selected base station in a same traffic frame in which the signals from the plurality of base stations are received during the handover and transmits a dedicated traffic channel signal only to the selected base station.

Claim 8 defines a mobile station that: (1) detects propagation conditions with a plurality of base stations, respectively, (2) selects a base station corresponding to an optimal propagation condition, and (3) transmits a dedicated traffic channel only to this selected base station in the same traffic frame in which signals from the plurality of base stations are received. Support for this subject matter is located in Fig. 6 and the specification discussion thereof at page 19, line 5 to page 23, line 23. Since the mobile station performs all of these functions, a communication handover from one base station to another can be accomplished by the mobile station without any intervention by a base station. As a result, the claimed mobile station can execute a handover quickly in one traffic frame.

By contrast to the subject matter defined by claim 8, Applicant submits that Anderson discloses a technique whereby a mobile station receives signals from a plurality of base stations

and measures the qualities of these signals, respectively. Then, the mobile station transmits the measurement results to a controlling base station. Based on the received measurement results, the controlling base station allows the mobile station to establish a link with the base station having the highest quality signal.

In short, Anderson discloses a handover technique that requires multi-frame communication, between the mobile station and the base station, to execute. The mobile station defined by claim 8 can execute the claimed handover features in a single frame and without the cooperation of the base station or its structural components. Anderson and the present invention are, therefore, completely different.

To be more specific, according to Anderson, a mobile station and a base station perform communication such that the mobile station measures a propagation condition between the mobile station and the base station and reports the measurement result to the base station. The base station determines a channel for establishing a link based on a plurality of measurement results and reports this to the mobile station (see Fig. 3 of Anderson).

In comparison, the present invention is superior to Anderson in its ability to perform a handover more quickly and in its

integration of the entire structure needed to perform the claimed handover features in the single apparatus of the mobile station.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Anderson does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 8. More specifically, Anderson does not disclose the feature of a mobile station transmitting a dedicated traffic channel only to a selected base station in the same traffic frame in which signals from a plurality of base stations are received during a handover. Therefore, allowance of claim 8 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

New claim 9 recites the features distinguishing apparatus claim 8 from Anderson, though with respect to a method claim. Claim 10 recites all of the features of claim 8. Claims 9 and 10 are allowable over Anderson for similar reasons that claim 8 is allowable thereover. Therefore, allowance of claims 9 and 10 is warranted.

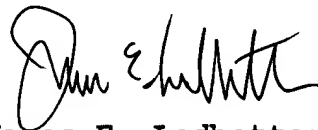
Regarding claim 4, the Watanabe patent is assigned of record to the Assignee of the present application, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. and has been applied to this claim in an obviousness rejection through the provisions of 35 USC §102(e). The present invention and the subject matter of Watanabe were commonly owned or subject to an obligation of assignment at the time the present invention was made. Accordingly, under 35 USC

§103(c), Watanabe does not qualify as prior art against the present invention. Therefore, allowance of claim 4 is warranted for this independent reason.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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